

British Parachute Association

5 Wharf Way
Glen Parva
Leicester
LE2 9TF

Tel: 0116 278 5271
Fax: 0116 247 7662
e-mail: skydive@bpa.org.uk
www.bpa.org.uk



Development Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday 11 October 2005 at 1630
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present: Kieran Brady Chairman
Chris Allen Chairman of Council
Adrian Bond
Eddie Jones
John Page
Elizabeth Stoodley Media Co-ordinator

In attendance: Paul Applegate
Tony Butler Technical Officer
Jon Gretton Financial Administrator
John Hitchen NCSO
Martin Shuttleworth Secretary-General

Observer: Paul Applegate
Karen Farr

Apologies for absence: Ralph Fielding
Tony Goodman

Item Minute

32/05 Minutes

John Page proposed, and Eddie Jones seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on Tuesday 16 August 2005 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

33/05 Matters arising

33.1 Freely manual (minute 28.1)

The Freely manual drafted by Paul Floyd was undergoing final checks before being presented to STC for formal approval. The Chairman thanked all concerned for their voluntary effort. The Chairman reported that the previous WARP Manual was currently being re-written by Aaron Faith.

33.2 Publicity for skydiving at the Bedford wind tunnel (minute 28.3)

The Chairman reported that a poster had been produced and sent for display at the Bodyflight wind tunnel in Bedford. An area had been set aside at the wind tunnel for information on skydiving, and Sibson had put up a professional display. There was also room for a BPA display and the Chairman invited John Page, who kindly agreed, to arrange to use this area to best effect.

Action: John Page

33.3 Contract with the BPA Shop (minute 28.4)

Chris Allen sought further advice from the Committee over an issue that had arisen in his negotiations with Tony Knight, who was acting on behalf of UK Parachute Services Ltd, in setting out a written contract for their franchise from the BPA to run the BPA Shop. The issue concerned the definition of the term 'parachute equipment'. The Shop sold goggles and altimeters. Chris Allen had stated that the wording the Committee had suggested for the draft contract, which precluded the sale of parachute equipment, remained as it was but that the Shop should be allowed to sell its existing stock, and would then have to come back to this Committee for approval before buying further stock. Tony Knight had not accepted this as a compromise, although he had agreed not to sell harnesses, etc.

Chris Allen reported that Tony Knight's position was that the BPA Shop had always sold altimeters and goggles etc, which he said had never caused a problem in the past. Chris Allen said that when UK Parachute Services (UKPS) Ltd - for whom Tony Knight was now working as an agent - had taken over the running of the BPA Shop, the Directors of UKPS had contacted at least one overseas parachute dealer.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to continue negotiations with Tony Knight on the basis that altimeters and gloves - accessories - could continue to be sold, as was custom and practice. But the Committee did not wish the BPA Shop to sell parachute equipment, which it defined as items or assemblies attached to a parachute harness. The Committee endorsed the position of authorising the BPA Shop to sell its current stock, but requested that any proposal by UKPS to expand or extend the traditional range of items sold by the BPA Shop should first be put as a proposal to this Committee so that the BPA could regulate what was being sold in its name. Chris Allen kindly offered to re-negotiate with Tony Knight, and the Committee thanked him for his assistance.

Action: Chris Allen

34/05 Reports on areas of responsibility

34.1 Central Council of Physical Recreation

Adrian Bond reported on an advisory service to businesses and employers from Croners (a business information and publishing house) that was newly available by telephone to CCPR members. He had checked with CCPR, and the service was also available to BPA Affiliated Centres. The Office would circulate details by post to all Clubs & Centres.

Action: BPA Office

CCPR was organising a meeting on 17 October for national governing bodies of non-Olympic sports who had recently been advised of UK Sport's proposals to taper off their exchequer-funding grant. The BPA was in this position. However, Chris Allen believed that it would be prudent to await the outcome of CCPR's meeting, and see what if any further action CCPR might propose, before deciding whether the BPA should join with this group and/or make our own representations direct to UK Sport.

34.2 Insurance

The Committee believed that, now two wind tunnels were in operation in the UK, it was appropriate to give reminders that BPA insurance did not cover wind tunnels. Eddie Jones, who was liaising with the wind tunnel operators, said he would write to them to explore how this might best be made known to wind tunnel users.

Action: Eddie Jones

The insurance page of the BPA website would also be updated to include this information.

Action: BPA Office

34.3 Media

Elizabeth Stoodley was pleased to report considerable success in media publicity for the 2005 Nationals. Asked for help at the last minute by NWPC Cark, host of the Classics & CF Nationals, the press release prepared by Elizabeth Stoodley was taken up by the BBC Cumbria website and two local radio stations. Hibaldstow and Sibson had not asked her for any help in contacting the media about the Nationals they had hosted. Elizabeth Stoodley had also drafted a press release on the women's 150-way world record, which had included

14 women from the UK, and Lesley Gale was sending out this release. The Chairman thanked Elizabeth Stoodley for her report.

35/05 Development Action Plan: 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006

35.1 Publish a BPA web page for Members to make the most of the media

Elizabeth Stoodley reported that she had drafted an article on dealing with the media for publication in *Skydive Magazine*, which she had sent to Lesley Gale, Editor. Once the article had been published, and in the light of any feedback it generated, Elizabeth Stoodley planned to develop the webpage for Members on how to get skydiving news into the media, this being a Development Action Plan target.

Action: Elizabeth Stoodley

35.2 Research the potential of re-launching the BPA Affinity Credit Card

Adrian Bond tabled figures on the re-launch of the BPA Credit Card. There had been 831 accounts transferred from the old card, 28 new accounts. The new accounts had been opened primarily from the promotional leaflet included in *Skydive Magazine*, together with some from the BPA website. 45% of new applications had been declined, which was in line with the statistics for similar credit cards. Adrian Bond was continuing to try to get a skydiving photograph on the card, but the earliest opportunity to do this seemed likely to be in March 2006, and it would depend on the number of new accounts which by then had been opened.

Action: Adrian Bond

35.3 Support and encourage Clubs & Centres to run safety evenings

As time was short, the Chairman said he wished to defer until the next meeting making his suggestion of how to progress this item.

Action: Chairman

36/05 Date of next meetings

Tuesday 6 December 2005 at 1630 at the BPA Office, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 1800.